

No matter how tired he was, he was interested in how my day had gone and what I had learned in school. Like many kids, I worked hard at school and at my other activities, from my daily chores to playing my fiddle, to earn the reward of his smile and his words of praise. That ability to inspire a child is the greatest power, and the greatest responsibility, of fatherhood.

The creation of Father's Day is widely credited to Mrs. Sonora Dodd, who, inspired by the idea of Mother's Day, chose to honor the father who raised her and her siblings after their mother died. Her father, William Smart, must have been a great father, to have sparked such a tribute from his daughter. As we honor the contributions to our families made by our fathers, we must also thank Sonora Dodd for her devotion and dedication to her father and all fathers. Mr. Smart did not know the German writer Jean Paul Richter 1762-1825, but he proved the truth behind Richter's observation that "The words that a father speaks to his children in the privacy of home are not heard by the world, but, as in whispering galleries, they are heard clearly at the end and by posterity."

Mr. President, I close with a poem by an anonymous author, titled "A Little Chap Who Follows Me." My Dad knew the truth of this poem, and I learned the truth of it after my own daughters were born, as all fathers do. On Father's Day, as fathers are being honored, it reminds us of the qualities of a father that are most worth honoring.

A LITTLE CHAP WHO FOLLOWS ME

A careful man I want to be;
A little fellow follows me.
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the selfsame way.
I cannot once escape his eyes,
Whate'er he sees me do, he tries.
Like me he says he's going to be;
The little chap who follows me.
He thinks that I'm so very fine,
Believes in every word of mine.
The base in me he must not see;
The little chap who follows me.
I must remember as I go
Through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be;
The little chap who follows me.●

FLAG DAY

● Mr. BYRD. Madam President, in the early history of our Nation, many flags flew over the land that became the United States of America. The British Union Jack, the Spanish flag, the French flag, the Dutch flag, and others identified territory and colonies under the control of those nations. Then, as the colonies and various fighting forces organized themselves to take up the call of the new nation-to-be, many new flags began to fly. Some had pine trees, some had rattlesnakes, and others were simpler designs or slogans, but all sought to establish a separate and many times defiant new identity for the new nation and its people.

In the course of conducting the war, the Continental Congress had many

important and pressing decisions to make. Among them was the choice of a flag under which the armies and colonies could unite, a fitting symbol for the new nation. Accordingly, on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution establishing a national flag for the United States. Following a still familiar pattern, a special committee had first been appointed to develop the design for the new flag, and the resolution implemented the committee's recommendation.

The resolution itself was quite simple, and stated only that "the flag of the United States shall be of thirteen stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white upon a blue field, representing a new constellation." The 13 stripes and stars were symbolic of the 13 colonies that had fought for and won the liberty to establish the new nation, of course, but no formal symbolism was assigned to the color choices, which were the same as those found on the British Union Jack. Since 1777, however, many poets and speakers have imbued the colors with symbolism, as did Joseph Rodman Drake, in his poem, "The American Flag":

When Freedom, from her mountain height,
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night,
And set the stars of glory there!
She mingled with its gorgeous dyes
The milky baldrick of the skies,
And striped its pure, celestial white
With streakings of the morning light;
Then, from his mansion in the sun,
She called her eagle-bearer down,
And gave into his mighty hand
The symbol of her chosen land!

Over the years, the flag grew and changed as the United States grew, adding stripes as well as stars before it was recognized that the expansion of the States was greater than the flag's pattern could bear. When Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" after watching the battle of Fort McHenry during the war of 1812, the flag he wrote about had 15 stars and 15 stripes. By 1816, the United States consisted of 19 States, with more to come. So, once again, Congress established a special committee, this one directed by New York's Peter Wendover, to study the problem of the flag's design.

Early in 1818, the congressional committee presented a report. The report recommended a solution proposed by Chester Reid, a naval captain and hero of the war of 1812. His suggestion was that the 13-stripe flag honored the original 13 colonies, and that new States could be honored by the simple addition of stars, to reflect the growth of the new constellation.

On April 4, 1818, President James Monroe signed into law the Flag Act of 1818. Like the original Flag Resolution of 1777, the Flag Act of 1818 was short, consisting of two sections. The first section noted that, as of July 1819, "the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union have twenty

stars, white in blue field." The second section provided the process for adding stars to the flag upon the entry of each new State to the Union. This elegant solution provided the flag that we hold so dear today.

Our flag, the Stars and Stripes, or "Old Glory," still serves to unite our Nation today. It is a symbol of our Nation that is instantly recognizable around the world. It is both commonplace, seen daily in front of post offices, government buildings and schools, and yet hallowed, placed with solemn care over the coffin of a veteran or flying at half mast to mark a tragedy. It can also be a symbol of patriotic pride, carried proudly by Olympic athletes as it will be in Beijing this August, or streaming in the wind behind a mighty warship. And who can forget the sudden, spontaneous, outbreak of U.S. flags that erupted across the Nation in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy? That act captured the essence of our Nation and our flag—a nation defiant, strong, and united in the face of adversity.

On Saturday, many Americans braved the scorching heat and the violent weather and floods that have caused so much misery in recent days, and observed Flag Day by displaying the flag at their home or their workplace.

Mr. President, I close with one of my favorite poems about the flag. It is titled "Hats Off!" by Henry Holcomb Bennett.

HATS OFF!

Hats off!
Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
A flash of color beneath the sky:
Hats off!
The flag is passing by!
Blue and crimson and white it shines,
Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.
Hats off!
The colors before us fly;
But more than the flag is passing by.
Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
Fought to make and to save the State:
Weary marches and sinking ships;
Cheers of victory on dying lips;
Days of plenty and years of peace;
March of a strong land's swift increase;
Equal justice, right and law,
Stately honor and reverend awe;
Sign of a nation, great and strong
To ward her people from foreign wrong:
Pride and glory and honor, all
Live in the colors to stand or fall.
Hats off!
Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;
And loyal hearts are beating high:
Hats off!
The flag is passing by!●

ARREST OF BAHÁ'Í LEADERS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I wish to call attention to the arrest of seven Bahá'í leaders in Iran earlier this month.

On May 14, six Iranian Bahá'í leaders—Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz

Tavakkoli, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, all of Tehran—were arrested and reportedly taken to Evin Prison, the same facility where Haleh Esfandiari, director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars here in Washington, spent 105 days last year.

In addition, on March 5, another Bahá'i leader, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, also of Tehran, was summoned to the city of Mashhad by the Ministry of Intelligence.

I am concerned that these arrests signal an escalation of repression against the Bahá'i community in Iran. These actions do not befit the rich heritage of Iranian civilization, and I call upon the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release the seven Bahá'i leaders promptly and unconditionally.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL GALE S. POLLOCK

• Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I would like to recognize a great American and true military heroine who has honorably served our country for 32 years.

Major General Pollock was born in Kearny, NJ, and entered the Army Nurse Corps in 1976 after earning her BSN from the University of Maryland. She also completed a master's of business administration from Boston University, a master's in healthcare administration from Baylor University, and a master's in national security and strategy from the National Defense University. Major General Pollock also attended the U.S. Army Nurse Anesthesia Program and is a certified registered nurse anesthetist, CRNA, and a fellow in The American College of Healthcare Executives.

Major General Pollock's military education includes Senior Service College at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces; the U.S. Air Force War College; the Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives, the Military Health System CAPSTONE Program, the Principles of Advanced Nurse Administrators, and the NATO staff officer course.

Major General Pollock became the Deputy Surgeon General for Force Management December 11, 2007. She also served as Chief, Army Nurse Corps and Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command/Acting Surgeon General.

Major General Pollock's past military assignments include special assistant to the Surgeon General for Information Management and Health Policy; commander, Martin Army Community Hospital, Fort Benning, GA; commander, U.S. Army Medical Activity, Fort Drum, NY; staff officer, Strategic Initiatives Command Group for the Army Surgeon General; Department of Defense health care advisor to the Congressional Commission on Serv-

ice Members and Veterans Transition Assistance, health fitness advisor at the National Defense University; senior policy analyst in Health Affairs, DOD; and chief anesthesia nursing service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC.

Throughout her career Major General Pollock has served with valor and profoundly impacted the entire Army Medical Department. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the U.S. Army, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation to Major General Pollock on behalf of a grateful nation for her more than 32 years of dedicated military service.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ETHAN, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Ethan, South Dakota. After 125 years, this progressive community will have a chance to reflect on its past and future, and I congratulate the people of Ethan for all that they have accomplished.

The city of Ethan was founded in 1883 as a railroad town named after Ethan Allen of historical fame. Jerome Miles was the primary landowner of Ethan Territory. The first school was built in 1885, followed by the first Catholic and Methodist churches which were both built in 1887.

Today, Ethan is a growing and developing small town community located in Davison County. Ethan has a population of 312 and is home to numerous colorful characters, including many descendants of the original founders. Ethan features several local businesses, including grain elevators, hotels, banks, restaurants, doctor's offices, churches, a public school, and a beautiful park. Ethan Coop Lumber just celebrated their 100 year anniversary in 2007, and Ethan Public School has been declared a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

Ethan will be commemorating its anniversary with a celebration on the weekend of June 13-15. The town plans to hold the Miss Ethan Pageant, a street dance, a parade, and hot air balloon rides. The events of the weekend promise to provide great opportunities to celebrate such a historic milestone.

Even 125 years after its founding, Ethan continues to be a vibrant community. I am proud to honor the accomplishments of the people of Ethan, and congratulate them on this impressive achievement.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORONA, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I recognize the community of Corona, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. Corona is a rural community located in Roberts County, and will be celebrating its

quasiquicentennial the weekend of June 20-22 with a street dance, a 5k walk/run, hot air balloon rides, a parade, and fireworks.

In 1881, a town site called Prior was plotted approximately 1½ miles north of the future site of Corona, named for its owner, C. H. Prior. Prior was the original stopping point for the postal service until moving to the present location of Corona in 1883, which provided closer access to the railroad.

The early business district of Corona was comprised of a doctor, a newspaper, two banks, four grocery stores, a butcher shop, a post office, four grain elevators, a general store, a hardware store, a creamery, and two lumber yards. Main Street was marked with hitching posts, gasoline lights, and wooden sidewalks that were notorious for their hazardous conditions when wet.

Today, Corona still boasts several businesses including a café, a post office, a grain elevator, and most importantly, the Corona Learning Center. Three industrial enterprises are also based in the area: Mark's Custom Woodworking, Ammann Honey Farm, and Dakota Machine Works. Despite the hardworking nature of Corona's inhabitants, they still manage to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with one of the longest parades in the State, whether rain, snow, or shine.

Most South Dakotans call small towns like Corona home. South Dakota's small communities are the bedrock of our economy and vital to the future of our State. It is especially because of our small communities, and the feelings of loyalty and familiarity that they engender, that I am proud to call South Dakota home. Towns like Corona and its citizens are no different and truly know what it means to be a South Dakotan. Even 125 years after its founding, Corona continues to be a vibrant addition to our wonderful State, and I once again congratulate them on this achievement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are panted at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the